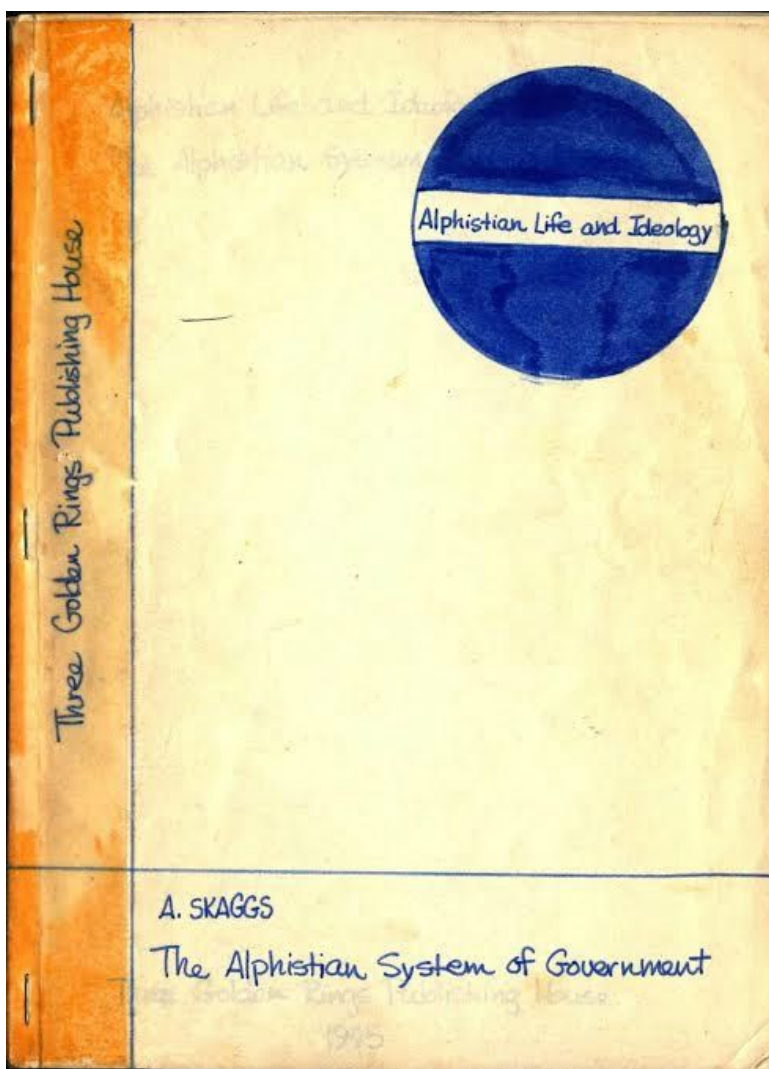




(Alphistian Life and Ideology Series)

The Alphistian System of Government

by Anthony Skaggs

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This is the text of a short book which I wrote when I was 17 years old and a junior in high school. It is the oldest extant written document that is complete from Alphistia's early years. It was written by hand and consisted of 64 pages. This transcription has been edited slightly for clarity but is consistent with the original text. An additional chapter that was an outline of the book has been omitted.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

What type of government should the United Provinces of Alphistia have? Of course, everyone must agree, the government should be democratic, with certain rights and freedoms guaranteed for all. We do not wish to have a totalitarian form of government, or any type of dictatorship. What we want is a democracy, and certain things which pre-Klava governments had which we have no need for and do not want. Alphistia wishes to create a democracy, but to create it without making the mistakes that pre-Klava countries made.

To sum up then, Alphistia's government should be democratic, but how is this democracy to be formed? What must it contain? Is Alphistian democracy to be a carbon copy of pre-Klava democracy? No, there should be changes and differences. Remember, there are many things in pre-Klava democracy that Alphistia does not need or want. Alphistia can still be a democracy without certain institutions and processes that pre-Klava democracy had.

One of the most important things that any country needs if it wishes to be a democracy is a president (or in Alphistian terminology - the premier.)

Chapter 2: The Premier

The premier should be elected by democratic means by universal suffrage. Each citizen over the age of seventeen should have the right to vote (and by voting, it means having a choice of candidates) in the election of the Premier. The election or re-election of the Premier should take place every six years. The premier may serve for a maximum of three six-year terms.

Why should the premier be in office for such a long time? We believe that if a Klava occurs, the people will need a strong leader, who will be able to use the powers given him to run the country in an orderly, democratic manner. The premier would not have enough time to get Alphistia on its feet if his length in office were limited to a period of four to eight years. The problems that the Klava would have caused would need long-term solutions, and the premier would need a longer term to carry out reconstruction policies.

It is necessary however, to limit the Premier's stay in office. We do not want or need a dictator (benevolent or otherwise).

It is possible that the maximum of 18 years in office could be shortened to 12 or even 6 years after Alphistia has become stable, economically and politically.

The Premier should have many powers, but there should also be limitations on what the premier should be permitted to do.

Some of the powers that the premier should have are:

being the head of the nation. The Premier should formulate the major policies of our country (or at least the premier should have the power to implement policies given to him by the Kilreti, the Alphistian parliament). The Premier should not have the power to rule by decree. He should be subject to the greater power of the Kilreti. If the Premier is not given the power to formulate policies on his own, he should at least be given the power to help formulate policies and implement them.

The Premier should have the power to suggest changes or additions, but he should not have the power to put them into effect without first obtaining permission from the Kilreti.

There should be changes and additions made, yes, but only by democratic means. The Kilreti should vote to change or add things to the system and the Premier (and the courts) should have the power to interpret these changes and additions.

There are other powers of the Premier, but also certain limitations. As has been mentioned, the Premier can send suggestions for change or additions, but the Kilreti is not forced to pass into law these suggestions. But it cannot

ignore his suggestions either. Most importantly, the Premier cannot rule by decree.

The Kilreti must send all proposed changes or additions to legislation to the Premier for approval. The Premier can either reject the change or accept it as valid. If the Premier rejects the change, the Kilreti can override that by obtaining a three-fourths approval from the Kilreti, saying they accept the change.

One of limitations of the Premier, which has already been mentioned, is that he should serve a maximum of three six-year terms.

It is of course, very important that the Premier be an honest person. How can we know if he is? It is a difficult question to answer. Perhaps the best way would be to keep the Premier under constant scrutiny (not surveillance) by the Kilreti, in order to keep the Premier's actions in check. The Premier must be open with the public. Doings of the Premier should not be secretive.

If the people are displeased with the Premier, or lose confidence in what the Premier is doing, the people should have the right to urge the Kilreti to remove the Premier from office. This impeachment process should be made possible though, only on the grounds that sufficient evidence of wrongdoing exists. Removal of the Premier from office should require a three-fourths majority in the Kilreti, and a three-fourths majority of the voters in a referendum.

If the Premier is removed, a caretaker Premier should be immediately appointed by the Kilreti until new elections can take place. Elections must occur within a period of three months.

To sum up then, one can see that the Premier system is democratic, because he is elected by all the people, that he is subject to the powers of the Kilreti, that he cannot rule by decree, and he can be removed from office. The Premier should have power, but these should also include limitations which should prevent the emergence of a dictatorship. Through the Premier system, a democratic form of government would be guaranteed for the United Provinces of Alphistia.

Chapter 3: The Kilreti

In pre-Klava times each nation which claimed to be democratic had a parliament. In some cases, this parliament was only a facade, but in many countries, the parliament could be said to be representative of the people in many ways.

There were however, problems with parliaments even in countries which had democratic governments. In some countries, whose parliaments claimed to represent the people, were actually controlled by a small elite of landowners, factory owners, and others of the upper classes. Other countries had parliaments which were often influenced by powerful interest groups (such as trade unions). In some countries, the parliaments were too busy wound up in red tape to be effective. All these things in some way contributed to the Klava.

The Alphistian parliament (which is called the Kilreti) must be truly a body that is representative of the people. It should not be controlled by an elite of wealthy people, nor should it be wound up in red tape, causing it to be ineffective. The Alphistian parliament should not only be elected by the people, but should truly represent them. In other words, it should be truly democratic.

In pre-Klava times, parliaments were not the true voices of the people, acting in the true interests of the people. They were the voice of the whomever controlled the government. In Alphistia, the Kilreti must be the voice of

the government, controlled by its people. The Premier should be the voice of the Kilreti. That is true democracy, and that is what Alphistia should have.

The Kilreti must be strong. It must be able to use the powers given to it by the Constitution. It must be the major force in guiding the country to its destiny. For true democracy, a strong and effective parliament will be necessary.

The Kilreti should be unicameral. Why a single house? The reason would be, that in most probability, Alphistia would have a small population. The people would be better represented in a unicameral parliament. Also, it would not be a deterrent to democracy to have a unicameral parliament. There is no proof a bicameral parliament is more effective.

The representatives to the Kilreti should be elected directly by the people. Their terms should last six years. Once again, there should be a maximum term length of 18 years.

Each and every deputy to the Kilreti should be a true representative of the people who elected him. If he is found to be corrupt, or is found to be misrepresenting the interests of the voters, he may be recalled.

The representative should be completely devoted to his public office in carrying out the wishes of those who elected him. the representative must be sober and

serious-minded, but at the same time, not be pompous or distant from the voters.

The responsibility of the Kilreti is to guide Alphistia. The best way to guide should be to be critical of what is wrong in Alphistian society, and it is the duty of the Kilreti to correct what is wrong. In other words, the best way to lead is to change and add. It should be anathema for the Kilreti to become a stronghold for conservatism (one of the major that the Klava occurred). The Alphistian parliament should be prepared to add or change the system whenever necessary. When it is against the interests of the people or is harmful to them, it is necessary to change.

Alphistia should by no means be a one party state. One party states are usually the first step toward dictatorship. A truly democratic system should represent all portions of society in its parliament (and it should not become a monopoly for one of those factions). Various political parties are necessary for free discussion of the issues.

The number of political parties should not be important, but all the political parties should be organized into a united coalition. This coalition would agree in principle on one basic idea: that Alphistia is our country, a necessary institution, and that any efforts to overthrow it by means of violence should not be tolerated. This would be in conformity with a basic principle of Alphistia's ideology: a total unacceptance of violence.

On anything else, political parties should be able to disagree or express differences of opinion. However this should not rule out the idea that the parties could agree on many issues in the interest of representing the people in a better way.

When a member or the Premier introduces a bill stating that something needs to be changed or added to, the bill can only become law when it is passed by a majority vote, and is accepted by the Premier. If the Premier rejects the bill, the Kilreti should have the power to override the veto if it can muster up a three-fourths majority for approval.

To sum up then, the Kilreti should be strong, and the deciding force of the country. the Kilreti should be democratically elected, with a choice between candidates, it should consist of members of various political parties, and it should follow certain parliamentary procedures.

Chapter 4: The Ministries

The ministries of the United Provinces of Alphistia should be a very important and essential part of government. The ministries would have the power to formulate and implement government policy. They should be able to suggest changes or additions to the Kilreti. At times, they would be able to take action without prior approval by the Kilreti.

Each ministry should be made up of people appointed by the Kilreti. The appointees may be members of the Kilreti (this need not be mandatory), or they should be concerned citizens who want to help the country by their service.

There should be a ministry for each important sector of government interest. There should definitely be the following ministries: education, communications, culture, industry, agriculture, justice, finance, planning, construction, health, social services, consumer industries, imports, foreign relations, security, and state policies.

Each ministry should have certain duties and responsibilities. Let us consider each of these ministries.

1) The ministry of communications would have the responsibility to build and maintain roads, highways, and city streets. the ministry would also operate the postal service, telephone service, railways and bus systems.

2) The ministry of education would have the responsibility for public instruction. The kindergartens, primary and

secondary schools, special vocational schools, and universities would be operated by the ministry.

3) The ministry of culture would have the task to raise the cultural levels of the people. This would be through the radio and television services, and by publishing cultural magazines and books, by fostering young talent in the arts, by displaying great works of art from the pre-Klava era and by Alphistian artists, and by making films of cultural interest.

4) The ministry of industry would have the responsibility to operate the publicly-owned factories and enterprises, and regulate the cooperative and privately-owned enterprises. It would construct and operate power plants, water services, and other utilities.

5) The ministry of agriculture would make available machinery, seeds, and technical know-how to farmers. The ministry would not operate or control farms. Farms would be individually owned, and farmers would sell their produce to the state or cooperative markets.

6) The ministry of justice would operate the court system, administer justice, build and operate correctional institutions, provide for the education of lawyers, write a penal code, and import pre-Klava law books and journals.

7) The ministry of finance would operate the banks in the country, control the printing of money and minting of coins,

establish exchange rates, interest rates and monetary policy, and create an annual budget.

8) The ministry of construction would build adequate housing for the population, construct shops, offices, factories, schools and other needed buildings.

9) The ministry of health would provide comprehensive and free medical services through the National Health Service's clinics and hospitals. Physicians and health service personnel would receive proper training and incentives for their especially difficult and intensive work. The ministry would also import supplies needed.

10) The ministry of social services would operate the various welfare agencies that provide benefits to every citizen. Benefits such as free education, a comprehensive pension plan system for the ill, disabled, or old. Subsidies for rent and basic food and goods would also be established.

11) The ministry of consumer industries would be in charge of the state-owned factories and workshops producing basic consumer goods, and regulating the co-ops and private sellers producing consumer goods and services.

12) The ministry of imports would have the task of bringing needed goods from pre-Klava areas to Alphistia, repairing or recycling the goods, and setting the range, quantity, and prices of imports.

13) The ministry of foreign relations would have the task of establishing relations with foreign countries, if they exist, or with any other foreign contacts. The ministry would negotiate trade and exchange, regulate visitors from abroad and sending Alphistian citizens out of the country, and provide assistance to any immigrants from pre-Klava areas.

14) The ministry of security would operate the local police organization, and provide guardposts at the country's borders.

15) The ministry of state policies would research in depth the activities of all the other ministries, criticize and correct these policies when necessary, and foster openness and honesty in government.

The ministries must have the power they need to operate freely, but this power must have limits. In other words, the ministries should not become more powerful or important than the Kilreti. The Kilreti must be the most powerful institution in the Alphistian system of government, in order to insure a democratic and open system.

Chapter 5: The Court System and Justice

Any system of government, if it is not to anarchic, needs a set of laws and court procedure to provide protection and justice to the citizens of the country. Alphistia would not be an exception to this rule.

The basic principle of the Alphistian court system must be that any citizen accused of a crime is to be considered innocent until proven guilty, through evidence presented by the state prosecutor.

The Alphistian citizen should be permitted the right of bail (exceptions being only the most serious crimes) and the right to have a speedy trial (within 30 days). When brought to trial, the Alphistian citizen must have the right to enter a plea of guilt or innocence, to right to have a defense, and the right to a just hearing of the case. He/she may choose to be judged by a jury of equals, or to waive this right and to face a panel of three judges.

If a citizen is convicted, he/she has the right to humane treatment, and protection from cruel punishments, such as the death penalty. The maximum sentence should be a term of life imprisonment. Parole should be for exceptional cases only.

The convicted citizen, once in a correctional institution, should be provided with useful, constructive labor, re-education, and the teaching of a trade, in order to create a rehabilitated citizen in society upon release.

Discrimination against a convicted citizen who has served the required sentence must be illegal. This includes employment and housing discrimination, as well as civil rights, including the right to vote.

All courts and correctional institutions would be placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Justice. The training and education of lawyers, the publication of laws and lawbooks, plus the import of pre-Klava legal materials should also be a task of the Ministry.

The highest court of the nation would be the Supreme Court of the United Provinces of Alphistia. It would have the responsibility to interpret the Constitution through judicial review of new laws. It would also try the most serious cases (such as for murder). The Supreme Court would have five judges as members, nominated by the Premier and approved by the Kilreti.

Each province would have its own local courts, with the responsibility of trying less serious crimes and appeals from the lower courts. The Provincial Courts are not the most important courts. Petty courts called Citizen's Courts would be located in each town. These courts would adjudicate and arbitrate non-violent crimes and civil cases.

At all three levels, a jury trial is possible if the accused wishes to exercise that right. The system must be just and fair, giving the accused certain written and declared rights, and if convicted, receive appropriate punishment that focuses on rehabilitation.

Chapter 6: Local Government

Although the central government would exercise more power than the local governments, local governments would still be of great importance. The people would feel closer to their local government, made up of their friends and neighbors. They would be able to air their opinions more freely locally than through the somewhat more impersonal central government.

The United Provinces of Alphistia would be as its name implies, a federation. These provinces, since the population of Alphistia would probably number only a few thousand, should not be too small or too large. Each province should at least number 300 or 400, but should not exceed 2000. 2000 people would be too impersonal, and 300 people would be too small to supply the labor force needed to run a province.

In the book "After Klava", there are three provinces, with the names Saka, Tava, and Usta. If Alphistia is someday established, the number of provinces should not be the most important matter. The number would depend of the population, and the names should matter little.

Each province would have a governor, who should be elected by the people living there. The governor's term should not exceed three six-year terms.

The governor of each province would be subject to the power of the premier. Each governor would have a

personal conference with the premier at least twice yearly, in order to report on the progress and problems that his/her province is having. The governor however should not be reduced to the role of the premier's mouthpiece. The governor should have the independence needed to govern.

Besides being subject to the premier, the governor would also be accountable to the jurisdiction of the provincial Kilreti. The provincial assemblies would be structured like the national Kilreti, and would have many of the same responsibilities.

There would be no need for provincial ministries because the central government would administer industries and services through its own ministries for the whole country. There could be special committees however, appointed by provincial Kilretis to run industries and services locally.

There would be no provincial supreme courts. All serious crimes would be tried in the national Supreme Court. Each province would have its own court, located in its capital. There would also be citizen's courts established in the major towns of each province.

There should be certain services administered by the provinces and certain others reserved for the central government. The latter would conduct foreign policy, the printing of money and control of banks, the operation of secondary schools, the university, prisons, central taxation, and the import of goods from pre-Klava areas. In addition, the central government would control the telephone system

and postal service, the national radio and television service, health care provision, and recording of statistics. Also the military, police force, and vacation resorts would be part of central government services.

Provinces would control local industries under public ownership, operate local primary schools and kindergartens, and local courts.

Each city would elect a local council. A mayor would also be elected, with local powers similar to the governor or the national premier.

Each province would elect five representatives to the national Kilreti. The number of representatives in the provincial Kilreti would be determined by local population size.

In conclusion, local government would be an important part of the Alphistian system of government. Alphistia would be a federation of provinces united under the central government. In this way, the people would be well-represented. Because of local government, the people would control their government, instead of the government controlling its people.

Chapter 7: Public Ownership

Probably the best and most successful type of economic system would be a “mixed economy”. This means there are various types of ownership of the means of production. Alphistia would have a mixed economy.

There should be three forms of ownership of the means of production. The state-owned, or publicly-owned sector, would consist of import firms, banking, trade, communications, the control of some industrial enterprises, cultural organizations, and some others. The cooperative sector would consist of groups of people organizing and owning a factory or service, and dividing profits among co-op members. The third type would be private ownership. This would be restricted to certain sectors of the economy, such as small businesses and private farms.

Why would Alphistia not have a capitalistic, free-enterprise system? The primary reason is that capitalism is not a fair system. The means of production are owned by a small number of people, and inequality is normal. Alphistia should not have any such group of people running multi-million dollar corporations control the economy and influence the government greatly. The only type of capitalism in Alphistia should be small family businesses and private farms.

Why would Alphistia not have a socialist economy? A socialist economy (such as in Soviet Russia) claims to have ownership by the people, but in reality has state

ownership. The people were supposed to control the state, but in reality the state controls the economy and the entire society. Common ownership of farmland has been proven unsuccessful and unprofitable, in particular.

The state in Alphistia should not have monopoly control, but own only certain industries which cooperative or private firms would be unwilling or unable to operate, or which would supply basic consumer goods or services (such as medical care or subsidized housing). Cooperative ownership would be the most successful and fairest. Profits would not go to a small group of owners, but to all members.

Alphistia's economic policy should be undogmatic. The best system is the one which benefits all the citizens the most. A mixed economy would be fairest for everyone and benefit all.

The state-owned sector would be the responsibility of the government ministries, especially the Ministry of Planning. To avoid depressions, recessions, and inflation, as well as other inherent faults of a laissez-faire system there should be comprehensive economic planning.

The publicly-owned sector would consist of the following industries and services:

1. Imports
2. Welfare services
3. Medical care
4. Schools

5. Telephone service
6. Post office
7. Road construction and maintenance
8. Bankings
9. Trade

Also, some media, some basic consumer goods production, public utilities such as water, electricity, and heating, some cultural institutions, and some heavy industry would be state-owned.

Most of the media, such as newspaper, magazine, and book publishing would be co-ops, as would tv and radio program production (the airwaves would be public-owned). Most factories would be co-ops. Only small workshops would be privately owned. A newspaper or radio station would not be considered a small family business.

In summary: Alphistia should have a mixed economy of state-owned enterprises, co-ops, and private businesses. Private ownership would be restricted in order to create a fairer society, providing benefits for all the people.

Chapter 8: The Policy of a Decent Living Standard

The major policy of the Alphistian government should be the establishment of a decent living standard for all.

If Klava occurs, it is believed that civilization would be destroyed and anarchy would reign. It would mean many people would die, or if living, would be in the worst type of misery. From the sea anarchy, an island of civilization might develop, and it could be Alphistia. One of Alphistia's main tasks then, would in many way to try to achieve a standard of living comparable to pre-Klava days. It would be necessary however, to be very careful to avoid repeating the mistakes and bumbles pre-Klava nations made that caused their collapse.

What would be the role of the government in providing a decent standard of living for everyone, not just the select few? Some of the things which should be basic would include:

- 1) Each citizen should have the right to an education. This should be tuition free, from kindergarten through university.
- 2) All people need health care at some time in their lives. In pre-Klava days, medical costs were very high, even though many had health insurance. In Alphistia, all medical care would be free of charge, paid for by taxes. Each citizen would have the right to healthy without being reduced to poverty.

- 3) Unemployment in Alphistia should be minimal or non-existent. Because of the country's small population, it is probable that all Alphistians who want work, could have a job.
- 4) To have a decent living standard, all workers would need a minimum wage. This wage should be high enough to provide each citizen with basic necessities: a place to live, food to eat, with a small amount left over for other expenses.
- 5) School children should receive free lunches at school.
- 6) A comprehensive system of pensions should be developed. These should at least cover the following sectors of the population, as needed: sick pay for those ill for an extended period of time, disability pensions, as well as extra payments and services for the deaf and blind, special education for the mentally disabled, pensions for those reaching retirement age (general 60 years old), stipends for university students, leave before and after pregnancy with extra payments for child-rearing.
- 7) Basic necessities should be subsidized: basic foods, rent, electricity and heating rates, basic clothing, etc.
- 8) Housing construction so that each family can have an apartment or house of their own, as well as programs to provide neighborhood shopping area, schools, and workplaces, as well as good transit services.

- 9) Provision of consumer goods produced domestically, or imported from pre-Klava areas, at reasonable prices

These should be the primary tasks of any Alphistian government. There should be a serious attitude by all parties to work for a steadily increasing standard of living of the Alphistian people.

Chapter 9: Conclusion

The aim of this book has been to explain the Alphistian system of government and how it works. It tries to explain the organization of the country, its policies and its goals.

The following is a summary of the major points of this book:

- 1) Alphistia should have a democratic form of government, with a system of checks and balances.
- 2) Alphistia should have an economy closely connected with its government.
- 3) The government should always work for growth in industrial production, agricultural production, and better services. This would be accomplished through economic planning.
- 4) Alphistia should provide all the people with comprehensive social benefits.
- 5) Alphistia should work to increase the standard of living of the people steadily, carefully avoiding the errors of pre-Klava days.
- 6) Alphistia should be ruled by the entire people, not by a small elite concerned only with their own selfish interests.

It should be remembered that those believing in Alphistianism should not make efforts to establish Alphistia unless a Klava occurs. Alphistia should not promote revolution, and a primary believe must be non-violence. "Moderation" should be our slogan. And our goal should not be to destroy pre-Klava civilization, but to prepare for

a Klava. Then, if it happens, we can save the remnants of pre-Klava days worth preserving. This should be our aim, and is the objective of this book.

List of Alphistian terms:

Democracy - a system of government in which the people control the government through election of representatives in parliament, the premiership, and locally.

Kilreti - the Alphistian parliament.

Klava - fall of civilization due to widespread decadence, apathy, unwillingness to change, and war.

Mixed economy - system combining the good points of capitalism and socialism.

post-Klava - period after the fall of civilization.

pre-Klava - period before the fall of civilization.

(transcribed November, 2016)